

## SWIMMING

The 15 to 20-foot-deep "swimmin' holes" carved in the river's bed are the most popular places in the park on a hot summer day. You can reach one of them by a short trail that begins behind the campfire center in the Hickey Campground, or the trail from the day-use parking lot in the Redwood Campground. But **BE CAREFUL** – diving from the rocks dangerous, against park regulations, and there is no lifeguard.

## CAMPING

The park's three campgrounds contain a total of 162 family campsites, each with fireplace, food cupboard, and table; wheelchair accessible restrooms, with hot showers and laundry tubs are nearby. During your stay, you'll probably see many of the more permanent residents of the campgrounds and bluffs – squirrels, raccoons, skunks, steller's and scrub jays, and turkey vultures.

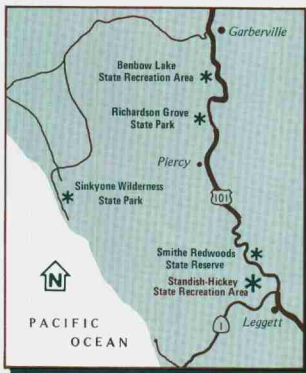
*Hickey and Rock Creek Campgrounds*, just off Highway 101 on bluffs overlooking the river, are open year-round and are popular in winter with anglers and kayaking groups. The sites will accommodate trailers up to 24 feet long or motorhomes up to 27 feet; there are no hookups. There's also a site set aside for campers who arrive on foot or bicycles.

*Redwood Campground*, on the other side of the river, is open only to vehicles less than 18 feet long; trailers and motorhomes cannot negotiate the steep narrow, winding access road. This campground is open only in summer, since the temporary bridge across the river must be removed in the fall.

Reservations can be made for summer stays by calling MISTIX, toll-free at 1-800-444-PARK.

Campfire programs, nature hikes, and Junior Ranger activities are held in summer; check to see what is scheduled during your stay.

**Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area**  
Leggett, CA 95455  
707/925-6482



## PLEASE REMEMBER

- **Dogs** must be kept on a leash during the day, and in a tent or vehicle at night. There is an extra fee for bringing it into the park.
- **Fires** are permitted only in the fireplaces in the campsites; no ground fires. You can buy wood at the entrance station; down wood is part of the natural soil-building process, so gathering wood is not allowed.
- **Raccoons** raid campsites at night for food, so please keep yours in a closed container or in your car.
- **Quiet hours** are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. – don't run your generator before 10 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
- **Loaded firearms** are not allowed in the park.



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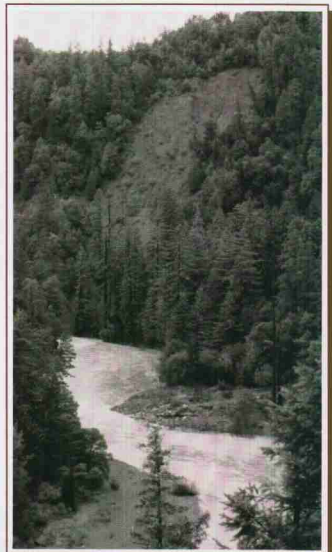
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# Standish-Hickey

## State Recreation Area



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

**A**t the "gateway to the tall trees country," Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area offers camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, and swimming on the South Fork of the Eel River which winds through the park for almost two miles.

Standish-Hickey began as a 40-acre campground acquired by the Save-the-Redwoods League in 1922. It was named to honor Edward Ritter Hickey, son of a local lumberman who died of influenza while caring for the victims of the epidemic of 1918. In the late 1950s, the Standish family donated over five hundred acres, and additional acquisitions through the years have brought the park's total acreage to 1012. Much of the land, clearcut and then burned over in a disastrous fire in the mid-1940s, is just now regaining its former beauty. One of the few virgin redwood stands remaining in this area can be seen on the Grove Trail.

## THE REDWOODS

The coast redwood flourishes on the California coast from Oregon to below Monterey, in a narrow strip where moderate climate combines with heavy winter rains and summer fog. But the tallest specimens – the tallest trees in the world – are found here on the North Coast.

In a virgin grove – a "climax forest" – of redwoods, the branches of the tall trees prevent sunlight from reaching most other trees, and there are only ferns, redwood sorrel, and other shade-loving plants on the forest floor. In Standish-Hickey's younger, second-growth forests, however, you'll see a variety of other trees and shrubs such as Douglas-fir, tanoak, laurel, and Oregon oak.

## FISHING

The park's stretch of the South Fork of the Eel River offers both deep pools and shallow, boulder-strewn rapids that provide excellent opportunities for anglers. Fishing is at its best in the late fall and winter, during the salmon and steelhead migrations. These fish are anadromous – that is, they are hatched in fresh water but migrate to the ocean, where they find a better food supply, to mature. Then they return to the stream of their origin to spawn. Many other fish as well as the primitive lampreys – the "eel" for which the river is named – follow this lifestyle.

You may see a large fish swimming in one of the deep pools. This is usually a western sucker, a scavenger that feeds on algae and other plant material. And in the early morning or late evening, watch for a glimpse of a great blue heron fishing from the rocks.



## HIKING

The park offers a variety of hiking experiences, from an easy walk through a redwood grove to a strenuous hike. Watch out for poison-oak and carry water on the longer hikes.

**Grove Trail** – 1.7 miles, easy. Allow 1 1/2 hours.

This self-guided trail begins near the service station across Highway 101 from the Hickey Campground. As you cross Ray Meadow, you will see 360° of forested skyline – look for the Miles Standish Tree on the hillside to the south. After crossing a small stream, you will ascend a hill and begin the loop. Along it, you'll see some of the tallest trees in the park, most of them in 10-acre memorial groves sponsored by the Save-the-Redwoods League. You'll also see traces of a disastrous 1947 fire.

**Lookout Trail** – 1.5 miles, moderately strenuous. Allow 2 hours.

Beginning at the day-use parking lot in the Redwood Campground, the lower half-mile of the trail offers some outstanding views of the river and its steep canyon walls. Then the trail enters a dense forest before reaching Lookout Point at an elevation of 1600 feet.

**Big Tree Loop Trail** – 3.5 miles, moderate. Allow 2 hours.

Starting from the day-use parking lot in the Redwood Campground, you walk along the river for a time and then begin climbing a series of switchbacks that offer rewarding views of the river. You'll enter a redwood forest and cross a series of small, spring-fed streams before you reach the Miles Standish Tree.

Starting from the campfire center in the Hickey Campground, you head toward the swimming hole and cross the river to reach small, grassy Cabin Meadow before you enter the forest to follow an old roadway to the Miles Standish Tree.

Towering above the second-growth redwood forest, the 225-foot tree is named for Captain Miles Standish; when he landed with the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock in 1620, this tree was already eight hundred years old. You can see scars on the tree where an evangelist sought notoriety by cutting down "the biggest tree around" in the '30s, and some from the 1947 fire.

If you like, you can bear to the right from the Standish Tree and stroll along the edge of Big Tree Meadow, where you may spot a deer, before descending to Page and Gates Road for an additional 1-mile loop back to the Big Tree Trail.

**Mill Creel Loop Trail** – 3.5 miles, strenuous. Allow 3 hours.

Take the trail to the left around the Standish Tree's rail fence to get on an old logging road the climbs gradually toward the ridge on the edge of the Mill Creek watershed. You'll pass above a large 1973 landslide, and there are many vantage points from which you can see its devastating results. The trail crossed Mill Creek, which is shallow during the summer but can deepen quickly after a rain; a short side trip up the streambed (be careful; there's no trail) will lead you to an area where a massive logjam, the result of careless logging, filled in the creek and killed many of the trees that grew beside it. You may see acorn woodpeckers here, searching for insects.

Past Mill Creek the trail climbs the hillside in a series of switchbacks, often following old logging roads. After recrossing Mill Creek on Page and Gates Road, you'll skip Big Tree Meadow on your way back to the Standish Tree.

